

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2004, Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "Office") rejected claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,010,657 to Knapp. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over *Knapp* in view of U.S. Patent 3,131,480 to Quenot. Claims 3, 4, and 6-10, however, were indicated as allowable if rewritten. The Assignee accepts the allowed claims and thus respectfully submits that the pending claims are ready for allowance.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,010,657 to Knapp. Claim 1 has been canceled, so this rejection is moot. Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to now depend from allowable claim 3.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over *Knapp* in view of U.S. Patent 3,131,480 to Quenot. Claim 11, however, has been amended to now depend from allowable claim 3, so the rejection is moot.

Allowable Claims

Examiner Guadalupe indicates that claims 3, 4, and 6-10 would be allowable if rewritten. Claim 3 has been amended to an independent form, incorporating all the features of the base claim. Claim 3 is now ready for allowance. Claim 4 has also been amended to an independent

form, incorporating all the features of the base claim, and is also ready for allowance. Claim 6 has been amended to an independent form, incorporating all the features of the base claim. Claims 7-10 have been amended to ultimately depend from allowable claim 6. New claims 12-15 depend from allowable claims. Thus, all the pending claims are ready for allowance.

Excess Claim Fee

A \$200 excess claim fee is due. Because claims 3, 4, and 6 have been amended to independent form, the total number of independent claims in this application is four (4). New claims 12-15 do not require excess claim fees. A \$200 excess claim fee is thus due. A check is enclosed.

If any issues remain outstanding, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 387-6907 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,



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